



2006 Kentucky Envirothon 1st Place Team

Susie Shouse Tanner, Farm Bureau Federation; David Crawford, DuPont Manual High School; Cheryl Bersaglia, Jefferson County Conservation District; Kentucky Envirothon 2006 1st Place Team - Sharon Li, Jennifer Feng, Boris Yelin, Jocelyn Yuen, Grace Xu, students at duPont Manual High School from Jefferson County; & Laura M. Knoth, Farm Bureau Federation

The 2006 Kentucky Envirothon

The 2006 edition of the Kentucky Envirothon was a very close contest with Louisville's DuPont Manual High School having 424 points for first, Fayette County 4-H with 423.6 for second place and Oldham County FFA Team 1 with 421.4 for third place. Oldham County FFA team 1 was the top FFA team and qualifies to compete in the National FFA - Natural Resources & Environmental Career Development Event (CDE).

The Kentucky Envirothon competition was held May 16 and 17, at the Kentucky Leadership Center located near Nancy, Kentucky in Wayne County. The

competition started with 45 teams from across the State contending for the top five spots from each of two regional competitions with ten teams qualifying for the State competition. The regional competitions were held in the West, April 15, 2006 at the Trigg County Recreational Complex and in the East, April 22, 2006 at Eastern Kentucky University Meadowbrook Farm in Madison County. Trigg County and Madison County Conservation District's provided lunch at the respective sites. The students were tested on their environmental knowledge in five areas: soils, aquatics, forestry, wildlife, and "Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate". During the state competition the students also are scored on a team presentation based on a scenario dealing with the current issue - "Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate".

The Fayette County 4-H team won the team presentation and Forestry site. Manual was the site winner in "Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate" and Oldham County won the Wildlife site. Caldwell County won the Soils site and finished fourth overall. Southwestern High School (Pulaski County) won the Aquatics site on the way to eighth place finish. The rest of the teams and their place in the competition were: Oldham County HS FFA team 2 (fifth place), Todd County Central HS (sixth place), Christian County (seventh place) and Apollo HS (Daviess County) (ninth place).

As in all of the Envirothon competition the students work together as a team and are scored based on team participation. The Envirothon is an international environmental competition for high school students. The Envirothon Idea is simple – combine the proven concepts of hands-on education with the excitement of good competition and the fun of spending a day in the outdoors. The Envirothon is a series of hands on contests in which teams of High School students compete to solve environmental problems. The event works much like an athletic competition and the winners of the State competition gets to compete in the Canon Envirothon. The Envirothon encourages constantly changing curricula and helps to build ties between schools, organizations and communities in preparing students for competition. The top teams are the ones that involve many organizations in preparing their students.

The state winner represented Kentucky at the Canon Envirothon which was hosted by the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Manitoba July 23rd to 29th, 2006.

The Kentucky Envirothon Sponsors are: Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts, Kentucky Farm Bureau (back packs, plus they are a major sponsor), Kentucky Department of Agriculture (major sponsor), Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources (wildlife prints), Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts Auxiliary, Kentucky Environmental Education Council (medallions). Soil pit was sponsored by- Metcalfe, Russell, Cumberland, Green, Harlan and Laurel

County Conservation Districts and USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. Others assisting are Kentucky Division of Forestry, Kentucky Division of Water, U.S. Forestry Service and the Kentucky Division of Conservation.

Jefferson County Envirothon Team Travels to Canada

Despite the non-air conditioned rooms, Norovirus outbreak, and hot cross-country running, DuPont Manual High School's Envirothon team braved a week at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada to compete in one of the toughest environmental competitions of its kind. Winning the 2006 Kentucky Envirothon placed the five-member team among other top state competitors at the Canon Envirothon Competition, July 23rd-30th 2006. About 52 teams from Canada, the United States, and United States Territories, competed for scholarship money and other prizes donated by Canon USA and other sponsors.

The five team members included Boris Yelin, Jenny Feng, Jocelyn Yuen, Li Zheng, and Sharon Li. Their team coach, Cheryl Bersaglia, a Program Coordinator with the Jefferson County Conservation District, spent months preparing the teens in Forestry, Water Quality, Soils, and Wildlife. The competition consisted of hands-on and applied knowledge of environmental science concepts in each of these categories. The team was allowed 10 minutes at each of the 25 sites on 5 5/8-mile long trails---which included travel time!

For 10 hours the team was sequestered in a room to prepare a 20 minute presentation in response to a scenario on the current issue: "Water Quality in a Changing Climate", which was to be presented before several judges the next day. The team scored very well for their first effort. Veterans of the competition claimed it was the toughest competition in the Envirothon history. Virginia took first place, followed by Pennsylvania.

It wasn't all work and no play. The teens got to travel and experience Canada, touring museums and local attractions, including the headquarters for Ducks Unlimited and a Winnipeg Goldeyes baseball game. They also got to spend time with students from all over the country.

"The kids had a blast," said Ms. Bersaglia. "It was an experience they will remember for the rest of their lives!" To learn more about the Canon Envirothon Competition visit their Web site at www.envirothon.org.